

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 838

By Beavers

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Colonel James E. Stone (retired) upon being named the Cannon County Veteran of the Year by the Cannon County Republican Party.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, while the heroic deeds of Tennesseans have been extolled throughout the history of our State and nation, the distinguished military service of every proud Tennessean should be illuminated, shared, and properly honored; and

WHEREAS, Colonel James E. Stone (retired) of the United States Army and United States Army Reserve will be honored on Saturday, April 30, 2016, by the Cannon County Republican Party as the Cannon County Veteran of the Year; and

WHEREAS, on November 13-14, 2015, Colonel Stone saw the completion of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Veterans Day Program and Veterans Day Parade that he led and helped organize; in 1993, Brother Tom Nichols contacted Colonel Stone and asked him to help honor the veterans in Cannon County; the two gentlemen, along with Wilburn Arnold, Marvin Jennings, A.W. Potter, Aubrey Nichols, Albert Thomas, and Luther Mooneyham, started and organized those events; and

WHEREAS, with the help of the veterans and concerned citizens, the Hilton Stone American Legion Post 279 in Woodbury, Cannon County High School, the City of Woodbury, and Cannon County, the events and the support of them have grown; and

WHEREAS, the first events were held on the Courthouse Square, which have now evolved into the current program; while it cost about \$600 to fund the event in the earlier years, it now costs approximately \$2,200; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Stone is the son of Hilton and Woodward Stone; his family was one of the original settlers of Cannon County; and

WHEREAS, a 1955 graduate of Woodbury Central High School, Colonel Stone graduated from Middle Tennessee State College, now Middle Tennessee State University, in 1959; he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army and attended Officers Basic School at Fort Benning, Georgia, before completing the United States Army Flight School in Mineral Wells, Texas; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Stone was then assigned to Fort Rucker, Alabama, for the completion of his flight school requirements, after which he was stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, as part of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Screaming Eagles); and

WHEREAS, Colonel Stone served with bravery and valor in Vietnam from 1962 to 1963, flying more than 300 combat missions; after his return from Vietnam, he attended the Command and General Staff College and the United States Army War College and earned a master's degree in public administration from Shippensburg University in Shippensburg, Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Stone flew more than 2,000 hours in helicopters, fixed-wing craft, and single- and twin-engine aircraft; he earned two Bronze Stars, two Legion of Merit Awards, twelve air medals, the Distinguished Flying Cross, a Purple Heart, and the Army Commendation Medal; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, Colonel James Stone was appointed as the senior advisor to the Commanding General of the 125<sup>th</sup> Army Reserve Command in Nashville; he was responsible for all U.S. Army Reserve units in Tennessee and Kentucky; he retired from this assignment in 1989 after thirty-five years of military service; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, Colonel Stone and his wife, the former Frances Ray McBroom, having spent thirty years together on tour with the Army, moved back to Woodbury, where they dedicated their time and energies to a number of civic and community endeavors and organizations, including the Hilton Stone American Legion Post 279 in which Colonel Stone holds membership; and

WHEREAS, James and Frances Stone were married for fifty-eight years, until the death of Mrs. Stone; Colonel Stone is fortunate to have the love and support of his son and his family, James E. and wife, Greta Parsley Stone, and children, Tyler, Sean, Tabby, Jacob, and Will; and

WHEREAS, while no offering can properly relay our gratitude for his bravery and dedication to preserving the blessed freedoms that are inseparable from our American heritage and ideals, it is most appropriate that we should honor Colonel Stone to the full extent of our ability, as he made untold and innumerable sacrifices to preserve the liberties we enjoy today; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Colonel James E. Stone (retired) upon his recognition as the Cannon County Veteran of the Year by the Cannon County Republican Party, thank him for his military service, applaud his dedication and bravery, and extend our best wishes for his continued success and happiness in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.